

The Canadian  
Heritage  
Rivers  
System



Banff  
National  
Park

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# The North Saskatchewan River Touring Guide

Banff National Park



Environment  
Canada

Environnement  
Canada

Parks  
Service

Service  
des parcs

## Welcome to the North Saskatchewan River

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History, scenery and recreation, these are the hallmarks of the North Saskatchewan River. From its source in the Rockies, the waters of the North Saskatchewan flow through Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba to arrive at York Factory on Hudson Bay. Stretching 1,800 km across the country, it is easy to see the importance of this river to fur traders and explorers.

The North Saskatchewan begins high in the mountains at the northern end of Banff National Park, Alberta. Its source, the Saskatchewan Glacier, is a neighbour of the more famous Athabasca Glacier in Jasper National Park, just to the north. Both glaciers are part of the Columbia Icefield. Meltwater from this icefield flows to the Pacific and Arctic oceans as well as to Hudson Bay.

The North Saskatchewan's natural features, the important role it played in Canadian history as well as its outstanding recreational opportunities are reflected in its designation, within the national park, as a Canadian Heritage River.

Included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in 1989, this section of the North Saskatchewan is managed by the Canadian Parks Service according to the System's objectives. The natural and historical features for which it was nominated receive special attention to ensure that they are preserved and interpreted for park visitors. In addition, the Canadian Parks Service provides for recreational enjoyment of the river, through river or highway touring.\*

This booklet describes the 74 km section of the North Saskatchewan from its source to the Big Horn Reservoir, 27 km past the park boundary. It is intended to assist in planning your river trip and to take along the river with you. The Canadian Parks Service cannot take responsibility for the misuse of this information or for the failure of individuals to adequately assess their paddling ability. River conditions may change considerably with water levels. The decision to run this river, or any reach or rapid, rests solely with the individual.

Canada's National Parks preserve our environment in its natural state for the enjoyment of all Canadians and their international visitors. As you travel along the river, please remember that you too are an environmental citizen and treat the park with the respect it deserves. We hope this guide helps you enjoy the North Saskatchewan River.

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\*See back page for more information on the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.



## National Park Regulations and Important Information

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**Safety Registration** is not required but you may wish to fill out a registration form. Register at any Information Centre or warden office. The law requires you to return your registration at the end of your trip.

**Transport Canada** requires that you have one approved life jacket with a whistle attached per paddler, a bailing device, and a spare paddle.

If you are going to fish you need a **National Park Fishing Permit**. You can buy a full season or seven day permit at park information centres, local sporting goods stores, or from warden offices.

You may **camp** in designated campsites only. On this stretch of the river, this means in Rampart Creek Campground.

It is very dangerous, as well as illegal, to feed wildlife in the park. For everyone's safety admire wildlife from a distance. Pick up a copy of "You Are In Bear Country" at the park gate or Information Centres.

If serious problems arise and you need help call the Warden Service in Lake Louise at 522-3866.

All **natural and historic objects** in the park are protected resources. You **must** leave them for others to enjoy.

**River water** may contain glacial silt, fecal streptococci or giardia so it should be filtered, and then treated or boiled before drinking. To be safe, bring along your own drinking water.

### More information

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If you would like more information about Banff National Park please contact:

Banff National Park  
Box 900  
Banff, Alberta  
T0L 0C0

(403) 762-1500

## Exploring the River

### By canoe...

The logical starting point for a canoe trip is near the junction of the Alexandra and North Saskatchewan rivers, 150 km north of Banff and 26 km north of Saskatchewan River Crossing. A narrow gorge, not far upstream from this point, makes the river unnavigable. This section of the river is for experienced, intermediate canoeists.

Paddlers **must** portage around a 1.6 km long canyon just upstream from the junction of the Howse River. Several Class II rapids, the occasional tight bend, and gravel bars are the only other obstacles. Except for the canyon, the river is on average 90 m wide. It is often extensively braided with a cobble bottom. The current in the main channel is vigorous, averaging 2 m/sec. The course of the navigable channel is plotted from the most recent topographic maps available. **This channel may change from year to year.**

### By car...

The Icefields Parkway and then the David Thompson highway follow the section of the North Saskatchewan River described in this booklet. From frequent viewpoints, the panorama of river and mountains is unsurpassed. Pick up a copy of "The Icefields Parkway" in Jasper or Lake Louise; it contains a detailed map of the highway and a summary of the main points of interest along the way.

Banff is famous for its wildlife. There's a good chance you will see animals beside the road, especially at dawn and dusk. Please slow down and drive with extra care.

### On foot...

Several trails, varying in difficulty, invite hikers to explore the North Saskatchewan on foot. Of particular interest are the Saskatchewan Glacier Trail to the source of the North Saskatchewan River; the Sunset Pass Trail to Sunset Lookout and its sensational view of the river and the mountains beyond; and the Glacier Lake Trail to one of the largest backcountry lakes in the park.

Before you hike, make sure to:

- check with park staff for the latest trail report, bear sightings and the daily weather report.
- take enough water. There are some steep sections; water from natural sources should be boiled before drinking.
- have the proper equipment for your trip.

No matter how you travel, it is possible to complete the river trip in a couple of days. However, spectacular mountain scenery, plentiful wildlife, interesting side trips, and a hostel, campground and motel invite you to adopt a more leisurely pace. There's lots to see so relax, enjoy the beauty, and reflect on the rich history of the North Saskatchewan River.

## History

For ten thousand years Canada's native people often came here to hunt. They lived on buffalo and other wildlife common then in the area. By the 18th century traditional life began to change. In 1750, L'éguaudeur de Saint-Pierre explored the Saskatchewan in search of a route to the Pacific. It was not long before more explorers followed and the fur trade expanded. Lake Athabasca was the centre of the fur trade in the west, and the North Saskatchewan was one of the main trade routes to the east. David Thompson, the famous North-West Company surveyor, travelled here often.

## Climate

Like most of Alberta, the North Saskatchewan basin enjoys a climate well suited to outdoor recreation. Summers are warm and dry and persistent bad weather is rare. Rain is typically delivered by short lived thunderstorms. Maximum and minimum temperatures average 21°C and 4°C in July. As these temperatures show, nights can be cold in the mountains - **warm clothes are essential.**

## Topographic Maps

1:50,000

Whiterabbit Creek 83C/1 Edition 2  
Cline River 83C/2 Edition 2  
Columbia Icefield 83C/3 Edition 2  
Mistaya Lake 82/N15 Edition 2  
Siffleur River 82/N16 Edition 2

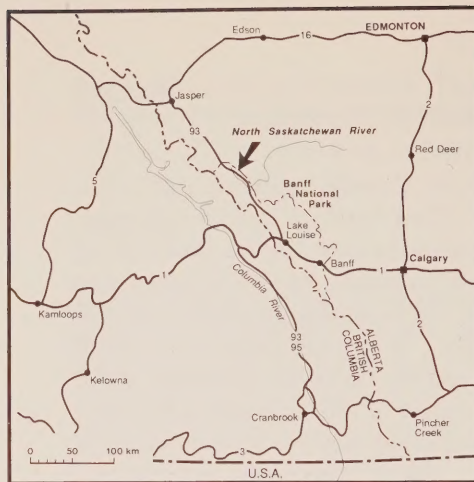
## Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a distinct possibility if you fall in this glacial river. The water is seldom above 10°C in the summer. Prolonged immersion can cause lowering of the body's core temperature. Even after rescue, a victim may continue to cool and unconsciousness and death can follow. Heat must be provided by an external source such as a campfire, warm fluids (not alcohol) or another person's body. Simply covering the victim cannot replace body heat. Wearing a wet suit will increase the amount of time you are able to stay in cold water without developing hypothermia. Wet suits are a good precaution if you are white water paddling. Inform yourself about hypothermia before your trip.



## REGIONAL MAP

### THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER IN BANFF NATIONAL PARK



## Rating River Difficulty

River difficulty is rated using the six-part International River Classification System. Individual rapid ratings are called classes, while sections are called grades. The rating system for rapids follows. The rating scale for river sections is based on the same difficulty levels, but is always indicated in Arabic numerals. Where two ratings are indicated for a specific rapid, the first rating applies to high water conditions and the second to medium-low water.

### Class I - VERY EASY

- Suitable for novices in all boats.
- Waves small and regular. Passages clear with occasional channel bars and artificial difficulties such as bridge piers.



### Class II - EASY

- Suitable for intermediate open canoe, novice closed canoe or white water boat with intermediate accompaniment.
- Rapids of medium difficulty, with clear and wide passages. Low ledges, sweepers, snags, log jams and large protruding boulders may be present. Open canoes may ship some water.



### Class III - MEDIUM DIFFICULTY

- Suitable for advanced paddlers in open canoes and intermediate paddlers in white water and closed boats.
- Waves numerous, high and irregular rocks, eddies and rapids with clear and narrow passages requiring precise manoeuvring. Inspection usually needed. Upper limit for open canoes, although extended reaches at this level are not recommended.



### Class IV - DIFFICULT

- Suitable for advanced paddlers in closed canoes and white water boats. Not suitable for open canoes.
- Long rapids with powerful and irregular waves. Narrow passages through rocks and boiling eddies, requiring precise manoeuvring. Course difficult to reconnoitre from the water. Inspection mandatory.



## Safety for paddlers

We want you to have a safe trip on the North Saskatchewan. While there are only two major obstacles on this section of the river, we recommend paddlers scout each of the rapids marked on the maps and assess their ability to navigate them safely. Avoid unpleasant surprises; haul your canoe or kayak out well above the rapids and make sure it is securely fastened.

### Class V - VERY DIFFICULT

- Suitable for expert white water paddlers only.
- Extremely difficult, long and very violent rapids following each other almost without interruption. Channel bed is extremely obstructed. Big drops, steep gradient and violent current. Inspection essential but may be difficult due to nature of the terrain.



### Class VI - EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT

- Suitable for teams of expert white water paddlers, at favourable water levels and with adequate provision for rescue.
- Difficulties of Class V carried to extremes of navigability. Nearly impossible and very dangerous.





Rapids / Riffles



Put in / Take out



Portage



Trailhead



Warden station



Viewpoint



Picnic area



Campground



Youth hostel



Motel



Restaurant



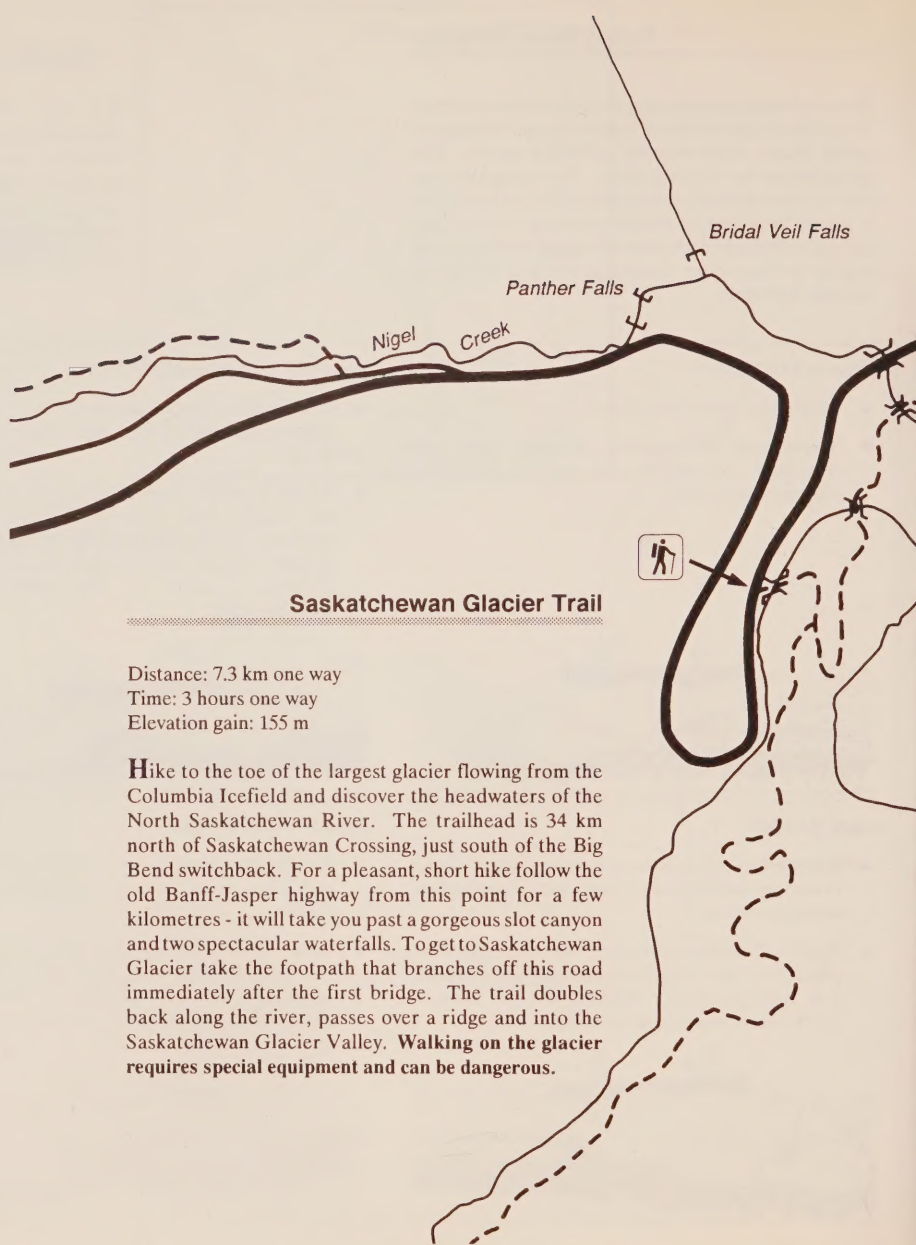
Telephone



Gas



Mountain peak  
(approximate location)



### Saskatchewan Glacier Trail

Distance: 7.3 km one way

Time: 3 hours one way

Elevation gain: 155 m

**H**ike to the toe of the largest glacier flowing from the Columbia Icefield and discover the headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River. The trailhead is 34 km north of Saskatchewan Crossing, just south of the Big Bend switchback. For a pleasant, short hike follow the old Banff-Jasper highway from this point for a few kilometres - it will take you past a gorgeous slot canyon and two spectacular waterfalls. To get to Saskatchewan Glacier take the footpath that branches off this road immediately after the first bridge. The trail doubles back along the river, passes over a ridge and into the Saskatchewan Glacier Valley. **Walking on the glacier requires special equipment and can be dangerous.**





### Upper Reach

Distance: 16 km

Difficulty: Unnavigable

This section of the river is unnavigable. You can enjoy the spectacular scenery from the Saskatchewan Glacier Trail or the Icefields Parkway.



**Mount Saskatchewan**

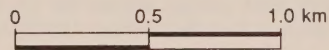
3 342 m

### Columbia Icefield

The Columbia Icefield is the largest ice mass in the Rocky Mountains. It covers 325 sq. km and is 385 m deep. This icefield is one of the two highest sources of water on the Continental Divide. The Saskatchewan Glacier is the largest valley glacier in the Columbia Icefield system. It is one to two kilometres wide and unusually smooth. The gently sloping toe of the Saskatchewan Glacier is typical of a glacier in retreat for 150 to 200 years. During World War II Canadian, American and British troops practised winter survival, skiing, and climbing on the Columbia Icefield. The U.S. Army used the Saskatchewan Glacier as a testing ground for over-snow vehicles in the summer of 1942.

### Preservation of the River

The North Saskatchewan River valley was originally added to Jasper National Park in 1927. In February, 1929, the government transferred the land to Rocky Mountains Park, which later became Banff National Park. In 1989 the river received Canadian Heritage River status, ensuring all its historical and natural features, and water quality, will be closely monitored on an annual basis.



0 0.5 1.0 km



Mount Coleman

3 130 m



ICEFIELDS PARKWAY



Class I

Class I

### Wilson Reach - Alexandra River to Saskatchewan Crossing

Distance: 26 km

Change in elevation: 20 m

Travel time: 1 day. This includes paddling and portaging only. Allow extra time for meals, rest stops and side trips.

Difficulty: Grade II

This section offers good runs for experienced, intermediate canoeists. The river is braided for the most part with an occasional tight bend and gravel bars. Watch for sweepers and snags below the Alexandra River. Paddlers **must** portage around the 1.6 km canyon just upstream from the junction of the Howse River.

### The Icefields Parkway

The Icefields Parkway is, without doubt, one of the most unforgettable scenic drives in the world. Not long ago only packtrains travelled here, and a fast trip from Jasper to Lake Louise took two weeks. Now you can travel the 230 km in a day. The mountains along the Parkway - the Eastern Main Ranges - are the highest, most rugged mountains in the Canadian Rockies. They are the mountains of the Great Divide, where mighty rivers begin in icefields and glaciers. The first Banff-Jasper road was built as a relief-work project in the '30s; the Icefields Parkway was completed in the early '60s.



## Sunset Pass Trail

The trailhead is on the east side of the Parkway, 5.1 km north of Rampart Creek Campground. The trail to Sunset Lookout is a steep, uphill grunt, but the view of the North Saskatchewan from the top is unequalled. The trail to Sunset Lookout branches from the main trail at km 2.9 and skirts the slopes of Mount Coleman to the lookout. Mount Coleman is named after a geologist, A.P. Coleman, who visited the area in 1893.

**Remember to take some water along, it's a long, steep climb.**

Distance to Sunset Lookout: 4.5 km one way

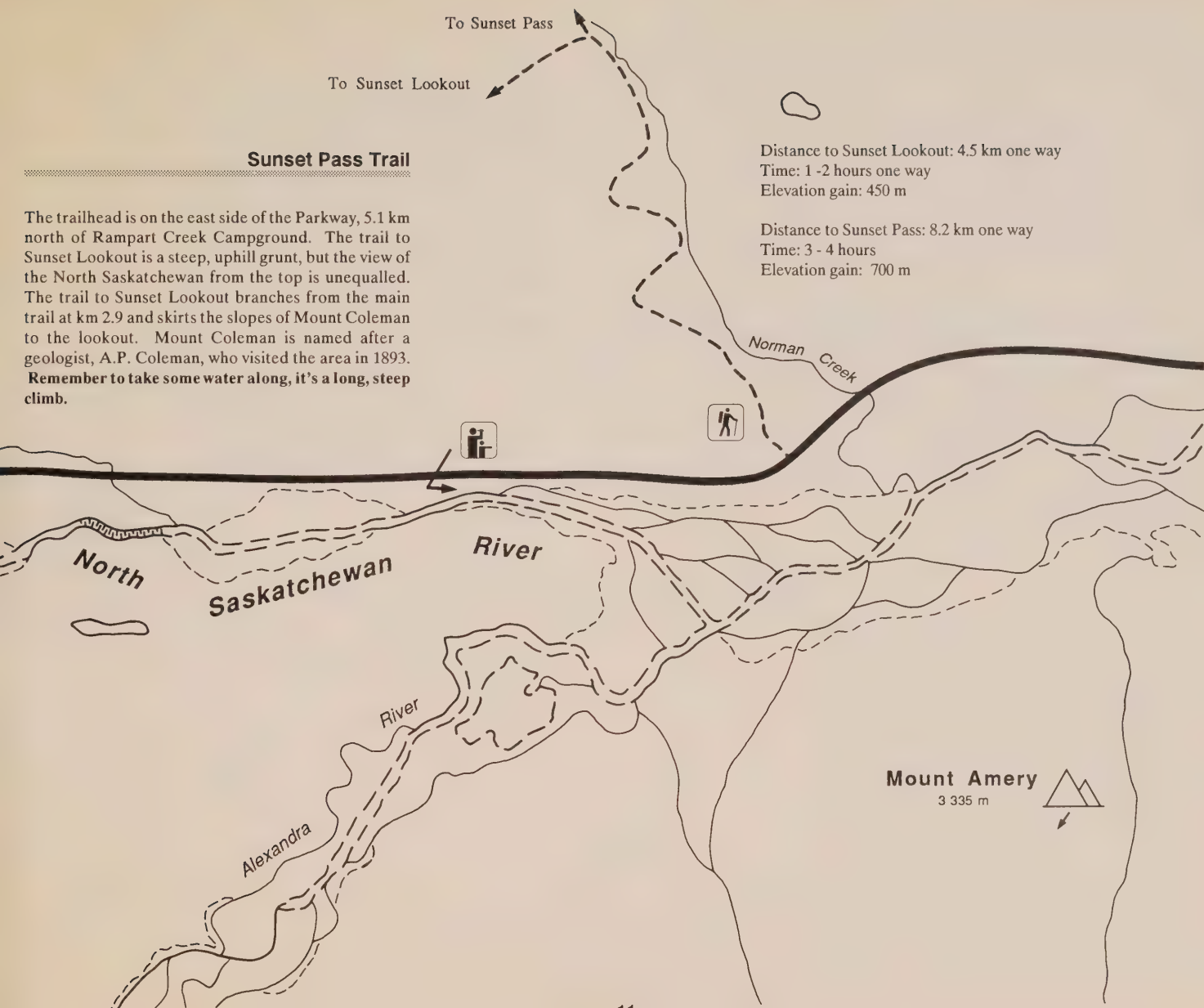
Time: 1 - 2 hours one way

Elevation gain: 450 m

Distance to Sunset Pass: 8.2 km one way

Time: 3 - 4 hours

Elevation gain: 700 m



## Hostel

You will find reasonably priced accommodation at the Rampart Creek Hostel. Offering the best sauna in the Rockies, the hostel is popular with cyclists, hikers and climbers. There is space for 30 guests, a basic food store and full service kitchen. The hostel is open daily in the summer; winter hours are in effect from November 1 - March 31. Reservations: Banff International Hostel, Box 1358, Banff, Alberta, TOL OCO, (403) 762-4122. There are reduced rates for Hostelling Association members.



## Camping

At Rampart Creek you can choose between a 50 site campground or the Rampart Creek Hostel. Rampart Creek Campground boasts covered kitchens, outhouses, fireplaces, firewood, drinking water (requires boiling) and campfire chats with park interpreters. To protect the river's natural environment **camping is allowed only in this campground**. The campground is open mid-June to Labour Day. It is rarely full, but it is wise to get a site early on weekends. There are no reservations.





## Mount Wilson

3 240 m

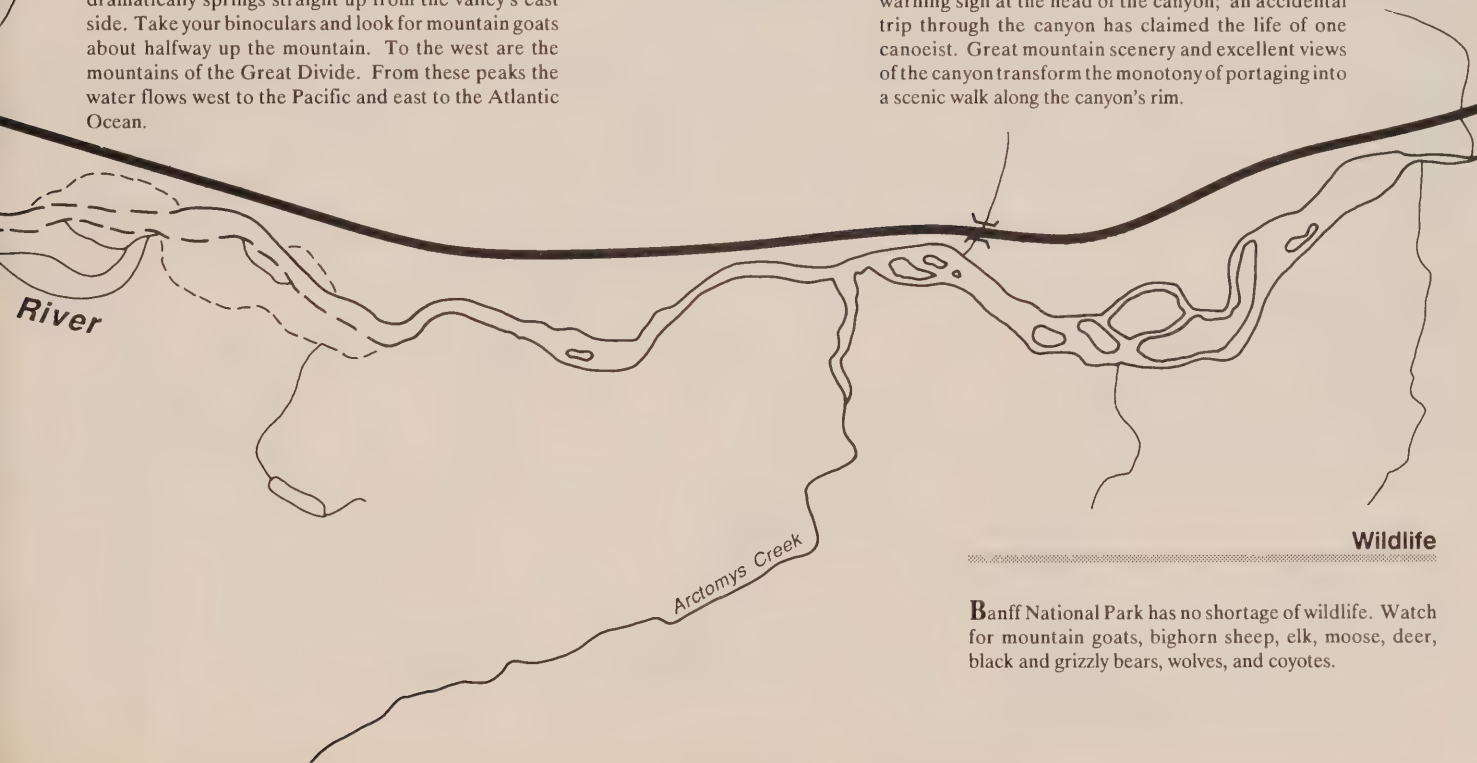
### Mountains

Spectacular mountain scenery leaves little doubt why early conservationists chose to include this area in Canada's oldest national park. The view on all sides is impressive. Look for Mount Saskatchewan, at 3342 m the highest peak in the area. Mount Wilson dramatically springs straight up from the valley's east side. Take your binoculars and look for mountain goats about halfway up the mountain. To the west are the mountains of the Great Divide. From these peaks the water flows west to the Pacific and east to the Atlantic Ocean.

### Portages

In the straight channel below Arctomys Creek, a series of mild class II rapids announces the beginning of a 1.6 km canyon. If you approach carefully you can see the upper end of the canyon. **THE CANYON IS NOT NAVIGABLE.** A rapid with standing waves up to 1.25 m high leads into a narrow, shallow gorge with a series of **Class VI** obstacles. First comes a 4 m waterfall, cut through steep rock walls only 12 m apart. Haystacks 2.5 m high follow immediately.

A good 1.2 km portage trail skirts the canyon wall. The trail leaves from a convenient point on the left bank just above the first rapid and ends just below the Glacier Lake Trail footbridge. Canoeists must heed the warning sign at the head of the canyon; an accidental trip through the canyon has claimed the life of one canoeist. Great mountain scenery and excellent views of the canyon transform the monotony of portaging into a scenic walk along the canyon's rim.



### Wildlife

Banff National Park has no shortage of wildlife. Watch for mountain goats, bighorn sheep, elk, moose, deer, black and grizzly bears, wolves, and coyotes.

## Glacier Lake Trail

This is a popular trail to one of the largest backcountry lakes in Banff National Park. The trailhead is on the west side of the Icefields Parkway, one kilometre north of Saskatchewan Crossing. The trail takes you across the frigid waters of the North Saskatchewan River by footbridge and then follows the Howse River to beautiful Glacier Lake. You can camp at a primitive campsite on the shore of the lake. You will need a backcountry permit if you're planning on staying overnight. **Check with wardens at Saskatchewan Crossing or Lake Louise about bears in the area.**

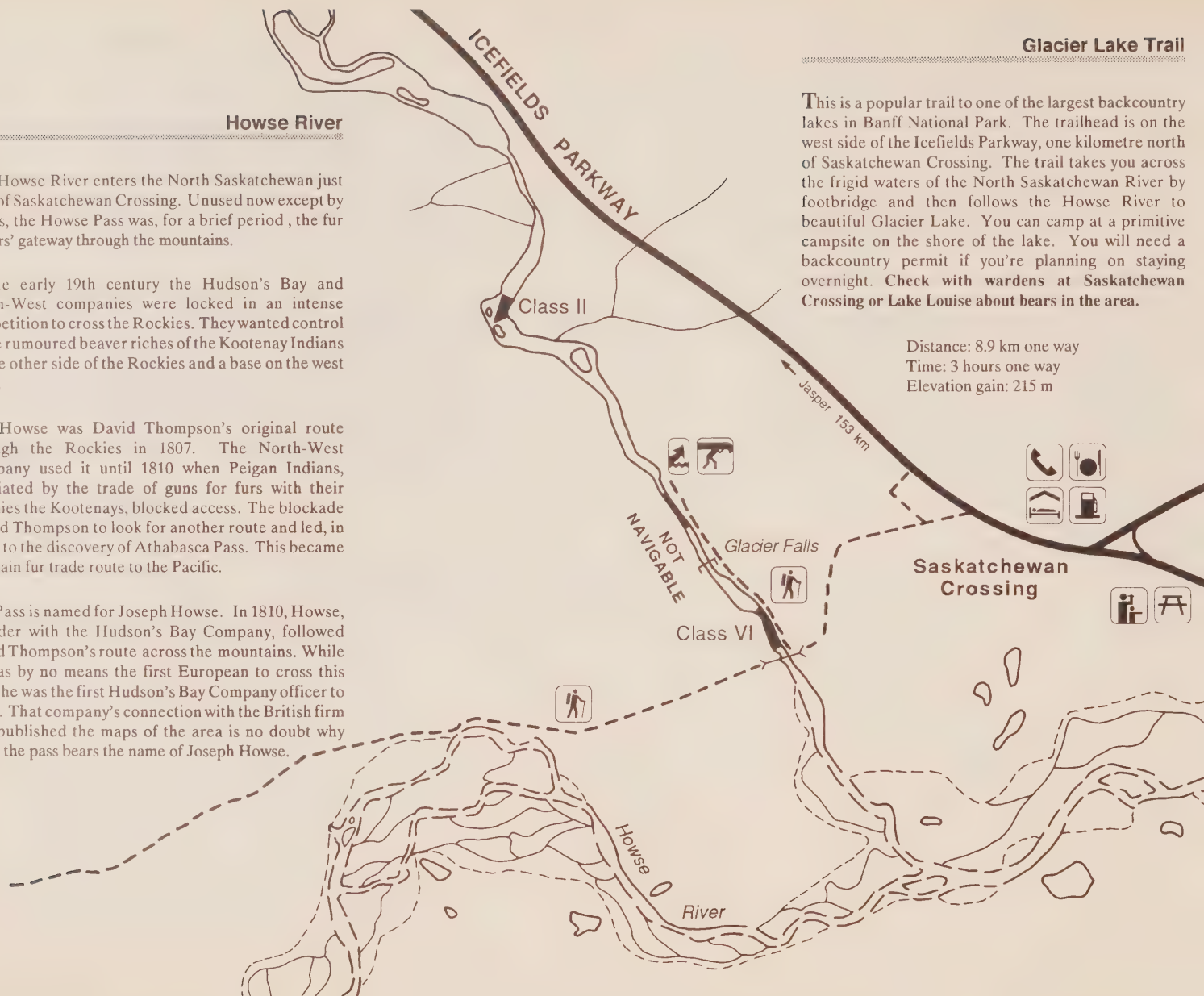
Distance: 8.9 km one way  
Time: 3 hours one way  
Elevation gain: 215 m

The Howse River enters the North Saskatchewan just west of Saskatchewan Crossing. Unused now except by hikers, the Howse Pass was, for a brief period, the fur traders' gateway through the mountains.

In the early 19th century the Hudson's Bay and North-West companies were locked in an intense competition to cross the Rockies. They wanted control of the rumoured beaver riches of the Kootenay Indians on the other side of the Rockies and a base on the west coast.

The Howse was David Thompson's original route through the Rockies in 1807. The North-West Company used it until 1810 when Peigan Indians, infuriated by the trade of guns for furs with their enemies the Kootenays, blocked access. The blockade forced Thompson to look for another route and led, in 1811, to the discovery of Athabasca Pass. This became the main fur trade route to the Pacific.

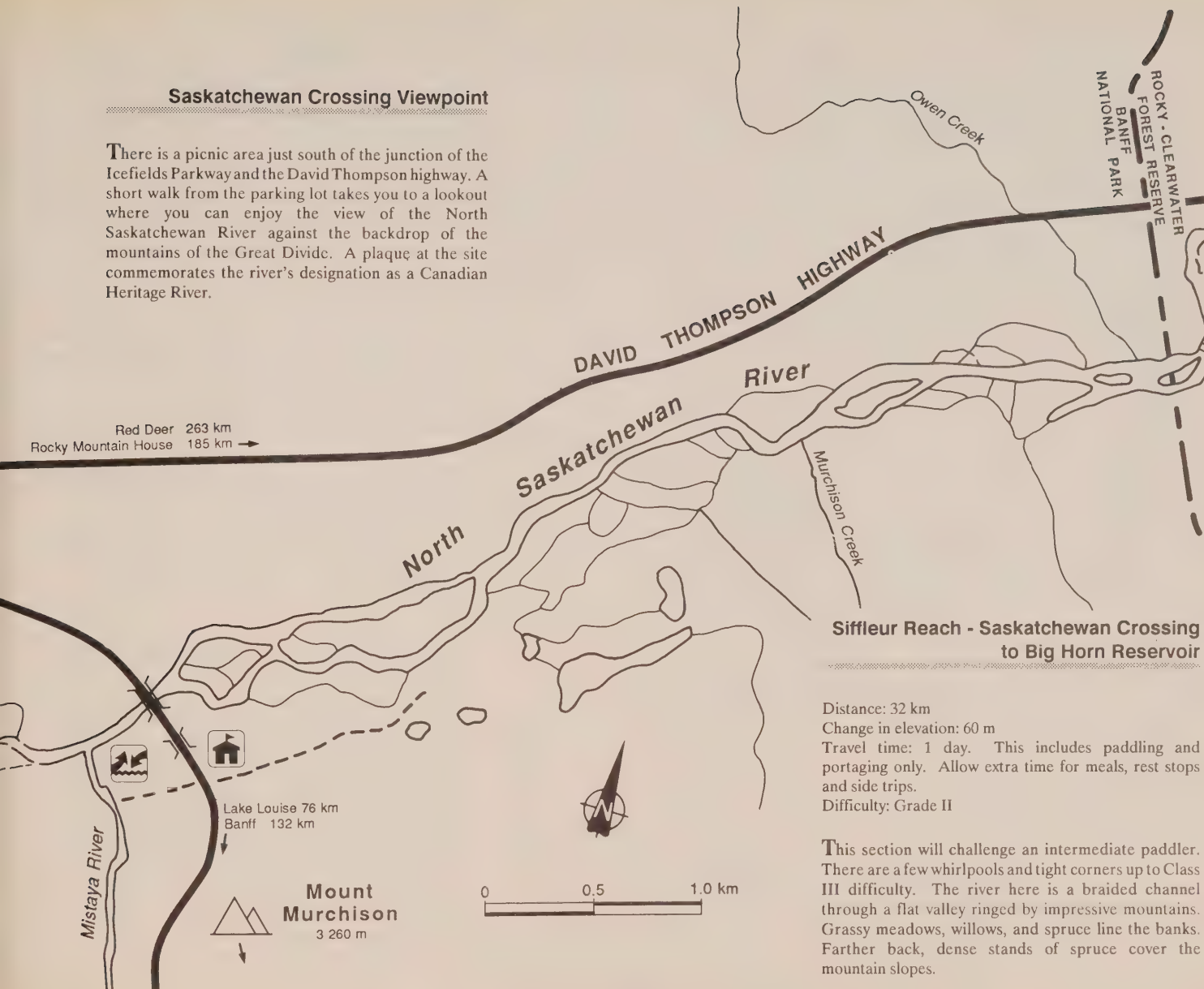
The Pass is named for Joseph Howse. In 1810, Howse, a trader with the Hudson's Bay Company, followed David Thompson's route across the mountains. While he was by no means the first European to cross this pass, he was the first Hudson's Bay Company officer to do so. That company's connection with the British firm that published the maps of the area is no doubt why today the pass bears the name of Joseph Howse.





## Saskatchewan Crossing Viewpoint

There is a picnic area just south of the junction of the Icefields Parkway and the David Thompson highway. A short walk from the parking lot takes you to a lookout where you can enjoy the view of the North Saskatchewan River against the backdrop of the mountains of the Great Divide. A plaque at the site commemorates the river's designation as a Canadian Heritage River.



## Siffleur Reach - Saskatchewan Crossing to Big Horn Reservoir

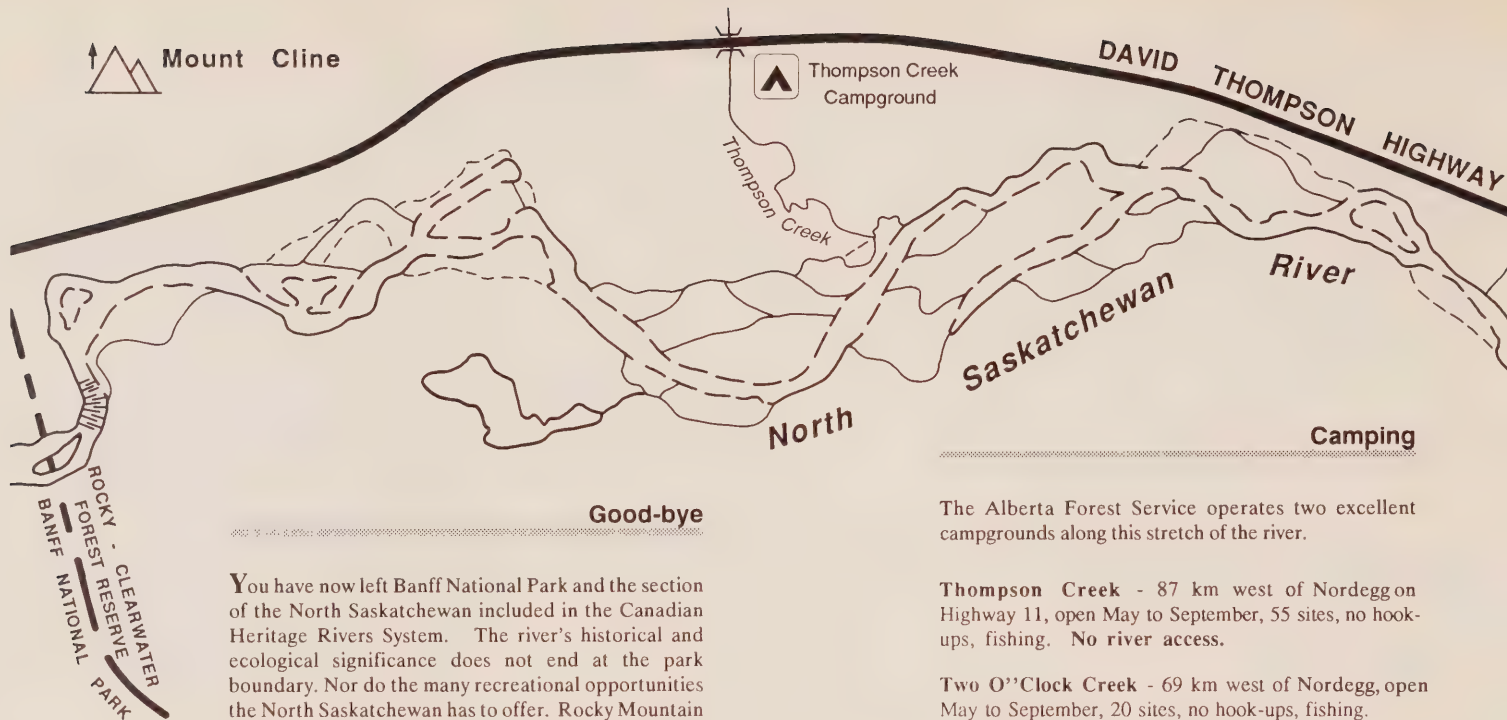
Distance: 32 km

Change in elevation: 60 m

Travel time: 1 day. This includes paddling and portaging only. Allow extra time for meals, rest stops and side trips.

Difficulty: Grade II

This section will challenge an intermediate paddler. There are a few whirlpools and tight corners up to Class III difficulty. The river here is a braided channel through a flat valley ringed by impressive mountains. Grassy meadows, willows, and spruce line the banks. Farther back, dense stands of spruce cover the mountain slopes.



### Good-bye

You have now left Banff National Park and the section of the North Saskatchewan included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. The river's historical and ecological significance does not end at the park boundary. Nor do the many recreational opportunities the North Saskatchewan has to offer. Rocky Mountain House National Historic Site, a North West Company Fur Trade Post, 190 km downstream, epitomizes the river's importance as a fur trade route.

We hope you enjoyed your visit and learned a little about one of Canada's great rivers. Information on camping, canoeing or fishing outside Banff National Park is available from:

Alberta Tourism  
Box 2500  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2Z4

In Alberta.....1-800-222-6501  
In Edmonton.....427-4321  
Canada and Continental U.S.A.....1-800-661-8888

### Camping

The Alberta Forest Service operates two excellent campgrounds along this stretch of the river.

**Thompson Creek** - 87 km west of Nordegg on Highway 11, open May to September, 55 sites, no hook-ups, fishing. **No river access.**

**Two O'Clock Creek** - 69 km west of Nordegg, open May to September, 20 sites, no hook-ups, fishing. **Road access only.**

### Montane Forest

There are three distinct forest regions in Banff National Park - alpine (above 2,100 m), sub-alpine, (1,500 m to 2,100 m) and montane (below 1,500 m). Just three per cent of Banff National Park is classified as montane; Saskatchewan Crossing is the only montane forest along the Icefields Parkway. This open forest of Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and aspen is an excellent wildlife habitat. Look for coyotes, wolves and bighorn sheep. The number of wolf sightings here has increased dramatically. See if you can spot tracks along the river's edge.

## Geology

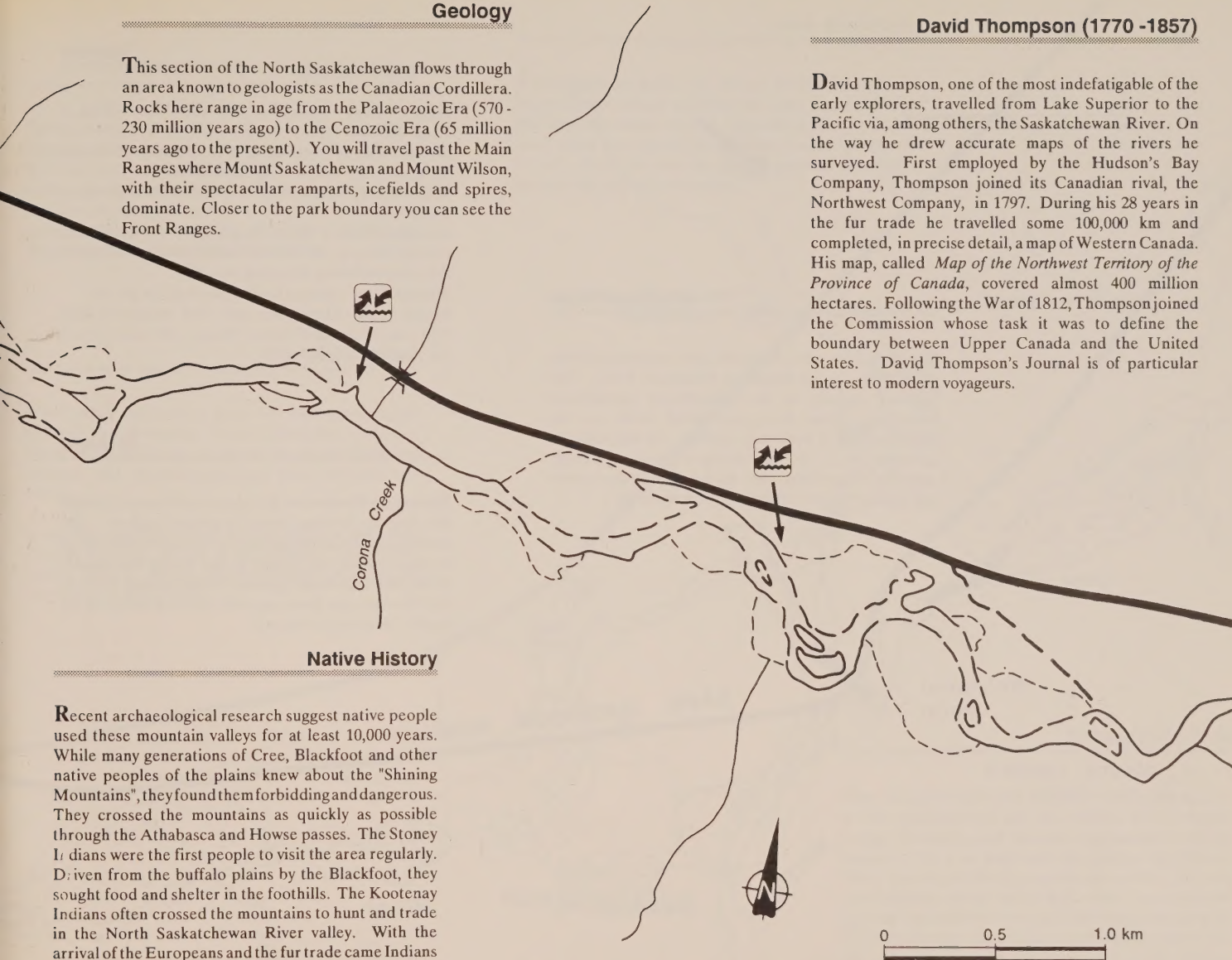
This section of the North Saskatchewan flows through an area known to geologists as the Canadian Cordillera. Rocks here range in age from the Palaeozoic Era (570 - 230 million years ago) to the Cenozoic Era (65 million years ago to the present). You will travel past the Main Ranges where Mount Saskatchewan and Mount Wilson, with their spectacular ramparts, icefields and spires, dominate. Closer to the park boundary you can see the Front Ranges.

## Native History

Recent archaeological research suggest native people used these mountain valleys for at least 10,000 years. While many generations of Cree, Blackfoot and other native peoples of the plains knew about the "Shining Mountains", they found them forbidding and dangerous. They crossed the mountains as quickly as possible through the Athabasca and Howse passes. The Stoney Indians were the first people to visit the area regularly. Driven from the buffalo plains by the Blackfoot, they sought food and shelter in the foothills. The Kootenay Indians often crossed the mountains to hunt and trade in the North Saskatchewan River valley. With the arrival of the Europeans and the fur trade came Indians from the east, the Iroquois, Algonquin and the Chippewyan.

## David Thompson (1770 -1857)

David Thompson, one of the most indefatigable of the early explorers, travelled from Lake Superior to the Pacific via, among others, the Saskatchewan River. On the way he drew accurate maps of the rivers he surveyed. First employed by the Hudson's Bay Company, Thompson joined its Canadian rival, the Northwest Company, in 1797. During his 28 years in the fur trade he travelled some 100,000 km and completed, in precise detail, a map of Western Canada. His map, called *Map of the Northwest Territory of the Province of Canada*, covered almost 400 million hectares. Following the War of 1812, Thompson joined the Commission whose task it was to define the boundary between Upper Canada and the United States. David Thompson's Journal is of particular interest to modern voyagers.





## Names

**Mount Wilson** - named in 1898 after Tom Wilson, a Banff outfitter

**Alexandra River** - named in 1902 in honour of Queen Alexandra, the wife of King Edward VII

**Mount Amery** - named after a Times of London editor, L.S. Amery

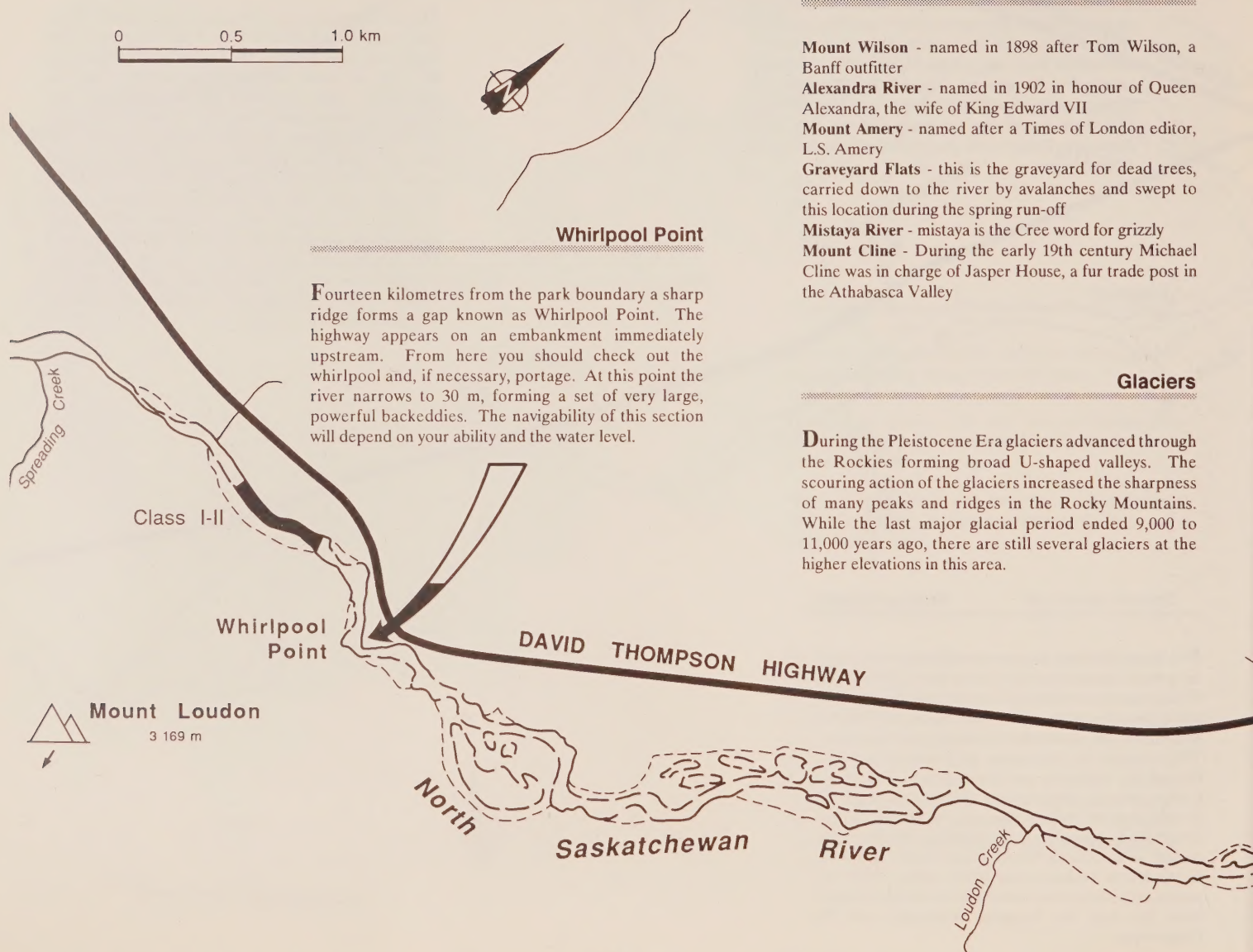
**Graveyard Flats** - this is the graveyard for dead trees, carried down to the river by avalanches and swept to this location during the spring run-off

**Mistaya River** - mistaya is the Cree word for grizzly

**Mount Cline** - During the early 19th century Michael Cline was in charge of Jasper House, a fur trade post in the Athabasca Valley

## Glaciers

During the Pleistocene Era glaciers advanced through the Rockies forming broad U-shaped valleys. The scouring action of the glaciers increased the sharpness of many peaks and ridges in the Rocky Mountains. While the last major glacial period ended 9,000 to 11,000 years ago, there are still several glaciers at the higher elevations in this area.



## Alluvial Fans

At the mouth of every tributary you will see one of the most interesting landforms along the valley bottom. Streams carry sand and gravel down steep mountain valleys. As the stream flows into the main valley it levels out, the current slows, and the sediment it carried is left behind to form an alluvial fan. Look for a particularly large fan at the mouth of the Siffleur River.

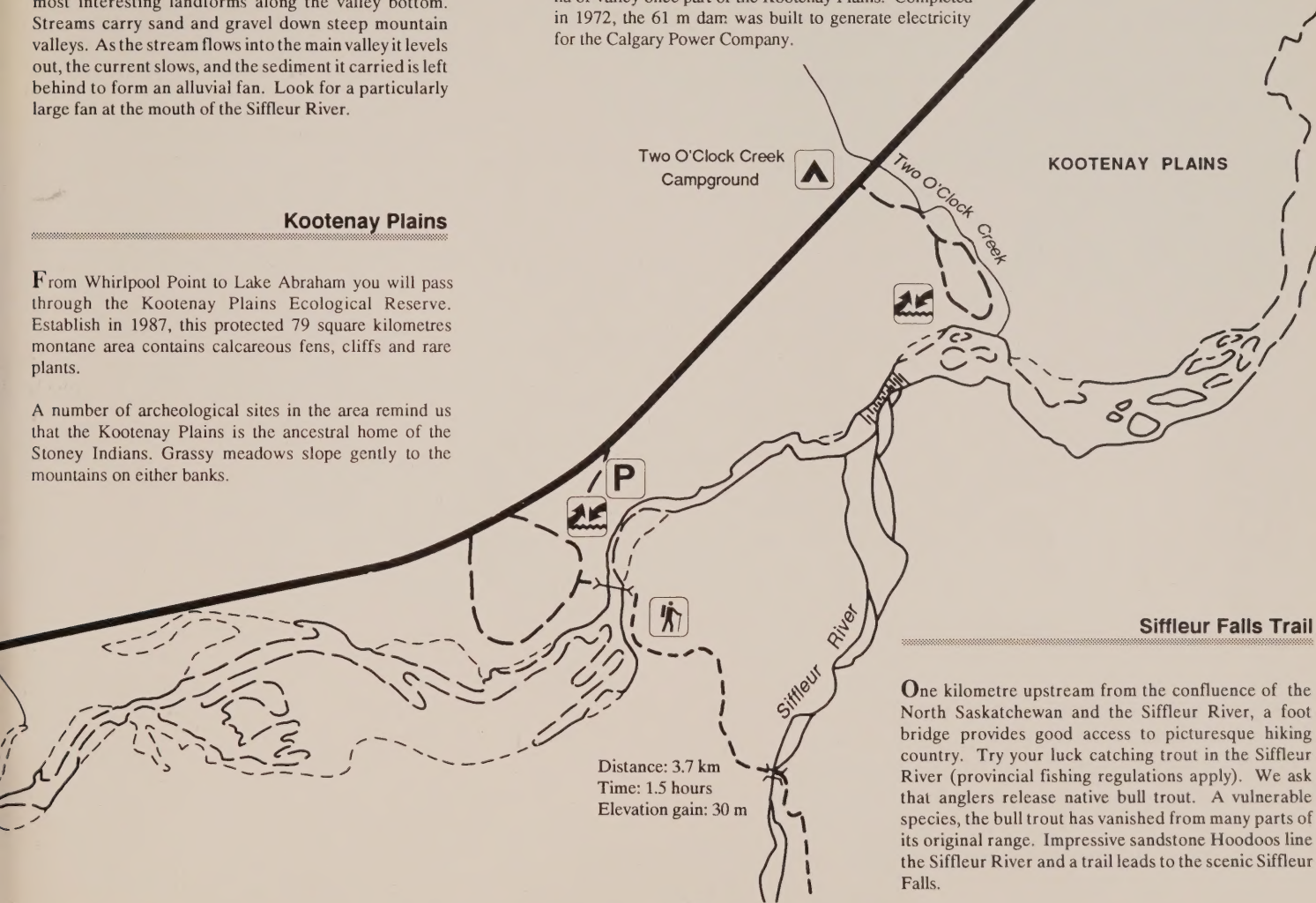
## Kootenay Plains

From Whirlpool Point to Lake Abraham you will pass through the Kootenay Plains Ecological Reserve. Established in 1987, this protected 79 square kilometres montane area contains calcareous fens, cliffs and rare plants.

A number of archeological sites in the area remind us that the Kootenay Plains is the ancestral home of the Stoney Indians. Grassy meadows slope gently to the mountains on either banks.

## Lake Abraham

Five kilometres below the Siffleur River, the Bighorn Dam ends the natural stretch of the North Saskatchewan. The reservoir known as Lake Abraham, submerges 5,500 ha of valley once part of the Kootenay Plains. Completed in 1972, the 61 m dam was built to generate electricity for the Calgary Power Company.



One kilometre upstream from the confluence of the North Saskatchewan and the Siffleur River, a foot bridge provides good access to picturesque hiking country. Try your luck catching trout in the Siffleur River (provincial fishing regulations apply). We ask that anglers release native bull trout. A vulnerable species, the bull trout has vanished from many parts of its original range. Impressive sandstone Hoodoos line the Siffleur River and a trail leads to the scenic Siffleur Falls.

## Canadian Heritage Rivers System

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) was established in 1984 to give national recognition to the important rivers of Canada. It is a cooperative program between the federal and provincial/territorial governments to conserve the features and heritage values of significant rivers.

Each government participates on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board to review nominations and oversee the System. For a river to be included in the system it must be of outstanding significance in one or more areas: human history, natural history or recreational value. The river must also be managed to protect and enhance its heritage resources for the benefit and enjoyment of future Canadians.

As of January 1993, twenty-five rivers, or sections of rivers, had been included in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System, in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island. Five of these rivers, including the North Saskatchewan, are located in our national parks. The other four are:

South Nahanni River, Nahanni National Park Reserve  
Athabasca River, Jasper National Park  
Kicking Horse River, Yoho National Park  
Alsek River, Kluane National Park Reserve

The total length of the rivers included in the System is more than 5700 km, of which nearly half is located in provincial or national parks. Since its creation in 1984, the program has become the fastest growing river conservation program in the world.

If you would like more information on the CHRS or on rivers included in the System, please contact:

Secretary  
Canadian Heritage Rivers Board  
c/o Canadian Parks Service  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0H3



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Canada